



# United States Department of the Interior

## FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

110 South Amity Road, Suite 300

Conway, Arkansas 72032

Tel.: 501/513-4470 Fax: 501/513-4480

IN REPLY REFER TO:

March 5, 2010

Dear School Principals,

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will observe Endangered Species Day on May 21, 2010. This represents the third year that Endangered Species Day celebrations have occurred in Arkansas. Endangered Species Day provides opportunities to celebrate our heritage of fish, wildlife, and plants and the ecosystems on which they depend. Endangered Species Day is an opportunity for people young and old to learn about the importance of protecting endangered species and everyday actions that people can take to help protect our nation's disappearing wildlife and their last remaining habitats. Protecting America's wildlife and plants today is a legacy we leave to our children and grandchildren, so that all Americans can experience the rich variety of native species that help define our nation.

This year the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Arkansas Ecological Services Field Office is focusing greater attention on what we can do to promote youth education regarding the importance of protecting not only America's wildlife, plants, and their habitats but specifically what we can do to help protect these animals and plants and the places they live in Arkansas. **Curriculum developed by the Endangered Species Coalition, a non-profit organization that works closely with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to celebrate Endangered Species Day, is available on our internet site at <http://www.fws.gov/arkansas-es/esday.html>.** Partners also include the National Association of Biology Teachers and National Science Teachers Association among others. Curriculum developed by other environmental education programs such as Project WET and WILD and Project Learning Tree may compliment lessons focused on endangered species. Additionally, **we are providing endangered species teacher packets, coloring books, and other related information including specific information on Arkansas' endangered and threatened species and the places they live on our internet site at <http://www.fws.gov/arkansas-es/esday.html>.**

We formally request your support by disseminating this information to your teachers and encouraging their participation. **To encourage our State's educators to help us promote Endangered Species Day, our office is sponsoring a state art contest. The requirements for the state art contest are enclosed in this packet.** Art work will be evaluated based on the following age groups: 1) K – Grade 2, 2) Grades 3 – 6, 3) Grades 7 – 9, and 4) Grades 10 – 12. We will award 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place plaques for each age group. The 1<sup>st</sup> place through 3<sup>rd</sup> place winners in each category also will receive \$100, \$50, and \$25 Visa Gift Cards, respectively, with their plaques. We will award the overall winner with an additional \$500 Visa Gift Card. We will work with local, regional, and state newspapers to recognize the winners.

The Endangered Species Coalition also sponsors a national art contest. Information related to their contest is provided on their web site ([www.stopextinction.org](http://www.stopextinction.org)). We encourage the State's youth to participate in both contests. However, participants in our contest will not be referred to the Endangered Species Coalition for consideration in the national contest. Students must submit separate entries if they wish to participate in both contests.

Information and resources regarding this event are available on our web site at <http://www.fws.gov/arkansas-es/esday.html>. Teacher packets also may be picked up at our office (see address above). We appreciate your support and cooperation in promoting endangered species conservation. If you have any questions, please contact Chris Davidson at 501-513-4481 or Erin Leone at 501-513-4472.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Mark Sattelberg". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

R. Mark Sattelberg  
Field Supervisor